(*b*) whether graduates have been appointed at any time in the vacancies in the above grade?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Permanent vacancies 4.
Temporary vacancies 2.

(*b*) Yes; three graduates have been posted to act temporarily.

Cocoanut Cultivation.

110. **MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI** (*Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of cocoanut trees in the Shertallai taluk according to the last Settlement accounts;

(*b*) whether they are aware that these cocoanut trees wither away if they are not watered during the hot season;

(*c*) whether there is any difference between the rates of assessment on cocoanut trees in the Shertallai taluk where such additional labour is required for their cultivation and in other taluks where such watering is not required;

(*d*) whether, in view of the very hard labour involved in the cultivation of cocoanut trees in Shertallai, they will consider the question of allowing some concession in the rate of assessment on cocoanut trees in this taluk; and

(*e*) the area under wet cultivation in this taluk according to the last Settlement?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) 1,470,469.

(*b*) The watering of the cocoanut trees is done only in the central belt and not throughout the whole taluk. If not watered, the trees do not die, but the productivity suffers to some extent.

(*c*) The rates of assessment have been selected from a wide scale fixed for the whole State during the Settlement with special reference to the yielding capacity of lands and other cognate considerations, the scale having been arrived at after actual experiments in several places.

(*d*) The question of revision of assessment cannot be taken up for consideration during the inter-settlement period. Having regard to the low rates fixed in the State and the great rise in the price of the produce of the cocoanut tree that has taken place since these rates were fixed, no grounds exist for a revision on the lines suggested.

(*e*) 20,945 acres.

Officers who are natives of Shertallai.

111. **MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI** (*Shertallai*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many Government officers are there in the State who are natives of Shertallai and in what departments they are?

(*b*) Will they also be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the name, designation and pay of each such officer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The information is not available and cannot be obtained without great labour and trouble which the Government do not think it worth-while to undertake.

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